

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for providing an analysis of use in managing risk,  
2 the system comprising:

3 a) a knowledge base, for maintaining generic risk records, a  
4 generic risk record including a plurality of different  
5 fields;

6 b) a data store of profiles, for maintaining profile risk  
7 records associated with a particular profile, a profile  
8 risk record including the same plurality of fields as a  
9 generic risk record, the profile risk records for use in  
10 providing a risk assessment in the associated profile;

11 c) a risk processor, for updating generic risk records based  
12 on profile risk records in the data store of profiles;

13 whereby the knowledge base includes generic risk records with  
14 field values that can be refined over time so as to be useful in  
15 providing a more accurate risk assessment in any particular  
16 profile.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein some of the risk record fields  
2 are measuring fields input by the user, and some are calculated  
3 fields calculated by the system, and the system allows different  
4 modes of analysis in which the fields that are the measuring  
5 fields differ.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the modes of analysis include:

2 a) a residual assessment mode, in which a user selects  
3 inherent values of likelihood and consequence for a risk,  
4 and a value, for each control for the risk, for  
5 effectiveness in either preventing the risk or reducing the  
6 consequence of the risk, and the system then calculates

7 residual levels of likelihood, consequence and risk rating  
8 for the risk;

9 b) an inherent assessment mode, in which a user selects  
10 residual values of likelihood and consequence for a risk,  
11 and a value, for each control for the risk, for  
12 effectiveness in either preventing the risk or in reducing  
13 the consequence of the risk, and the system then calculates  
14 the inherent levels of likelihood, consequence and risk  
15 rating for the risk; and

16 c) a controls self-assessment mode, in which a user selects  
17 inherent values of likelihood and consequence for a risk,  
18 as well as residual values of likelihood and consequence  
19 for the risk, and the system then calculates the  
20 effectiveness of predetermined controls needed to either  
21 prevent the risk or to reduce the consequence of the risk.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the system can be used in  
2 different modes of use, and further wherein only some fields are  
3 required to be used in the risk management analysis, the fields  
4 that are required depending on the mode of use.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein both a generic risk record and  
2 a profile risk record comprise:

3 a) a risk component, for indicating a risk, for indicating an  
4 inherent risk rating, and also for indicating a residual  
5 risk rating;

6 b) a cause component, for indicating the cause of the risk;

7 c) a consequence component, for indicating a particular  
8 consequence of the risk and the inherent and residual cost  
9 of the particular consequence; and

d) a control component, for indicating a control, for  
indicating whether the control is corrective or preventive,  
and for indicating the effectiveness of the control.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein in one mode of use the  
inherent risk impact cost is aggregated over the inherent cost of  
each consequence of the risk.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein in one mode of use the  
residual likelihood is an aggregate calculation based on the  
effectiveness of each preventive control acting on the inherent  
likelihood.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein in one mode of use the  
residual risk impact cost is aggregated over the residual cost of  
each consequence of the risk.

9. The system of claim 1, further comprising a scripting  
facility for enabling a user to create a script directing how a  
risk management process is to be performed, the script indicating  
steps that can be used in performing risk analysis in any  
profile.